

## ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. In what year did the great fire of Finedon take place? **1739**
2. How far did the fire travel? **214 yards to old Post Office**
3. In what year did the Volta Tower fall down? **1951**
4. Other than St. Mary's Church what is the oldest building in Finedon?  
**Part of the old Junior boys school.**
5. When did the current Infant School open? **1931**
6. Who was Mr. Ollis? **Teacher at the Junior Boys School**
7. Why was the lake in The Grove drained? **To stop Typhoid**
8. Which is the odd one out : Volta Tower, Ice Tower, Water Tower?  
**Watertower, Built in Brick.**
9. How did Tenter Lane get its name?  
**Connected with Tenter Frames for drying cloth**
10. Where was the Regent Cinema? **22 Regent Street**
11. Who was Huffey White? **Mail Coach Robber**
12. Who, had the initials JED. **John English Dolben**
13. What was Thomas Flawn famous for? **Awarded the Victoria Cross**
14. What type of tree stood outside the Tudor Gate? **Cedar of Lebanon**
15. Where was Welly Wells?  
**On the left of Thrapston Road at the front of the old United Biscuit site**
16. What is North East Street called today? **High Street**
17. Complete the "rhyme Furl up your sail and ... **anchor here.**
18. What was the name of the Yard which stood on what is now Mr and Mrs Hendry's garden? **Johnson's Yard**
19. Which item, now housed in the church, was recovered from the Grove?  
**The font**
20. Why was the Obelisk built?  
**Sign marker and to celebrate the many blessings of 1793**
21. Who stands in a niche at the Bell Inn? **Queen Edith**
22. Who was the last resident of the Hall prior to its sale in 1912?  
**Miss Ellen Mackworth Dolben**
23. Who were the Finedon Revellers? **Finedon Football team**
24. Name one Finedon Cricketer who has played for Northamptonshire?  
**Any 1 of 5: A G Henfrey, R Clarke, J Minney, Tim and Andy Roberts**
25. Where is Garrow Close spinney?  
**On the left of Irthlingborough Road approx half way to Irthlingborough**

FINEDON

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

SOCIETY



Brown Bess muskets made by John Bingham, Birmingham gunsmith

See story page 4

**NEWSLETTER**

**OCTOBER 2015**

## COMMITTEE FOR 2015

The officers and committee members re-elected at the Annual General Meeting on 25 November 2014 are:-

President	Jacqui Minchinton
Chairman	Malcolm Peet
Vice Chairman	Michael Shipton
Secretary	Michael Britton
Treasurer	Rachel Terry
Minute Secretary	Brenda Beck

### Committee Members

David Bailey    Jeremy Millington    Pat Curtis

Researcher: Carolyn Smith

## REMAINDER OF 2015 Meetings

26th Oct	The Industrial Heritage of Northamptonshire	Peter Perkins
24th Nov	The A.G .M. Followed by The Montagu monuments at Warkton Church	Eleanor Patrick
21st Dec	Carol Singing	<b>MEET AT OUTSIDE THE BELL INN AT 7.00PM</b>



Sunday School Children's Treat in Old Vicarage Garden - possibly 1952



Mulso Junior School—Children enjoying themselves in the recently built Swimming Pool.



Mulso Senior School—Items made by the Woodworking Class early 1950's

## Chairman's Foreword

Firstly I must apologise for the failure to produce a Newsletter for September. This was largely due to my health problems. These may also have had some impact on the October publication, but hopefully it will not cause a major delay. Thanks to the Vice-Chairman, Michael Shipton, and other members of the committee, the rest of our work has continued.

On a positive note Mick Britton and Carolyn Smith have carried out considerable research. Several reports of their work are reported in this edition of the newsletter.

The major report, see below, will be available soon. Although it is centred on Finedon men, the report describes the process of deportation and will be of interest and use to anyone with an interest in this form of punishment for crime.

Another report 'Farming in Finedon' is currently being written by member Richard Buckby. Having seen some of the draft I think that readers will be impressed with the detail that Richard has been able to include. There are two areas where we would like to expand. The first is Allotments and the second the Women's Land Army. If anyone can provide any information or photographs we will be please to receive them.



Mulso Junior School—Decorations for the Wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer Summer 1981

COMING SOON - the next Society publication

From FINEDON TO VAN DIEMAN'S Land

THE STORY OF THREE FINEDON MEN WHO WERE

TRANSPORTED TO "LANDS BEYOND THE SEA"

BETWEEN 1829 AND 1836

THEIR LIFE, THEIR CRIME, THEIR STORY.

## 2016 Meetings

January 25th	Finedon to Van Diemens Land	Mick Britton
February 22nd	100 Years of Gardening	Nicholas Warliker
March 21st	Another Icarus , the Rise and Fall of Percy Pilcher and the art of flying	Roy Smart
April 25th	Flag Fen, an ever changing story	Sarah Wilson
May 16th	Outing to Canons Ashby House	

## DOLBEN MUSKETS AND THE FINEDON VOLUNTER INFANTRY ?

Mick Britton

Through the 'Contact Page' of our website I recently received the following request.

*"I wondered whether your society could perhaps offer an opinion on the origin of a couple of antique muskets that I think perhaps came from Finedon Hall"? The muskets are Napoleonic-era "Brown Besses" made by a Birmingham gunsmith called John Bingham, which both have an oval brass plaque on the stock with an engraved seated griffin.*

*From the research that I have carried out, it appears to be an exact match for the Dolben crest, and although many other families used the griffin, no others match the details of these. I know that Sir William Dolben commanded a small unit of around 60 men referred to as the "Finedon Volunteer Infantry" during the Napoleonic Wars. and have found reference to this unit in period inspection documents.*

## FROM THE PHOTO ARCHIVE



**Charles McAlister** Head of the Boy's School 1883–1913

Reginald Underwood described him as one of the finest characters Finedon has ever known. Reginald said "It is certain that amongst all the hundreds of his old boys amongst all the people in Finedon who knew him, not one voice would be raised in dissent."

The female teacher on the right of the Boy's School picture (page10), may be Jane Mc Alister who was Headteacher at the Infant School at the Girls Junior School 1893-1903.



Finedon Territorials about the time of the start of the 1st World War. Harry West is standing second from the left.

**Quiz "How well do you know Finedon"**—the answers are on page 16. Mary Wilson, with a score of twenty, was the only person to submit an entry,.

A prize was once offered to a boy in the class  
 Who could look without laughing at himself  
 in the glass.  
 Johnny Brown—who was noted for most ugly  
 grimaces—  
 Saw what freaks they all looked as they sat  
 in their places,  
 And he never pulled faces again.  
 LEONARD AMEY.  
 "Holmdale," Ewenfield-rd.,  
 Finedon.

We have all heard the story of the child who  
 watched cabs driving up to a church for a wed-  
 ding, and made an unfortunate remark due to  
 his confusion of the words "married" and  
 "buried." There is a story—I do not vouch  
 for its truth—that a recent wedding in Finedon  
 was carried through to the accompaniment of  
 the tolling of the bell. If it is true, it would  
 be interesting to know which of the parties con-  
 nected with the ceremony was suffering from  
 the child's confusion.

It looks as though one church at Finedon has  
 been influenced by the lists of Army slang that  
 have recently been published in various journals  
 in response to the request of the Imperial War  
 Museum. That impression is gained after perus-  
 ing a bill outside a Finedon church. The bill  
 announces a series of missionary meetings and  
 a prominent top line is "Deco! Deco!" Pre-  
 sumably "dekko"—to look—is meant, but it is  
 to be hoped that the use of these words will not  
 spread, or someone will certainly be alarmed by  
 future notices on this style.

*I wonder if the members of your society can shed any more light on this?"*

The two muskets he has acquired were numbered 5 (see photograph below) and 13. The writer also kindly provided extracts of Parliamentary reports which included details of the Finedon Volunteer Infantry during this period.

As a Society always willing to help, wherever possible, with requests for information, Carolyn Smith and myself set about trying to ascertain the provenance of these muskets. We first checked the National Archives and Northamptonshire Record Office online catalogues for any reference. One possible suggestion was



the 1912 Finedon Hall Sale of Contents Catalogue. Thanks to Ted Amey we looked at a copy but there was no mention of any muskets or guns, apart from a double-barrelled elephant gun in the ante room. Carolyn was able to access information appertaining to the Finedon Volunteer Infantry from information held at the Northamptonshire Record Office, including extracts of Sir William Dolben's diary of the period but we were still not able to positively link these two muskets to the Dolben family.

I contacted John Bailey and forwarded the pictures to him. John found the subject "interesting" but unfortunately he had never heard of the "Dolben Muskets". John replied, "...the griffin sejant (sitting) does appear to be a rare crest. I have checked the griffin crest on several Dolben bookplates, and it does appear identical to those on the muskets... but I have never come across the crest on its own before - what a pity they did not use the shield!"



Following a subsequent conversation with the writer seeking the information it would appear that there were more muskets made. He has in possession auction catalogues from 2003 with details of two other muskets numbered in the 20s. However, the entries in the catalogues give no clue to the provenance or origin of these particular muskets.

*If any member of the Society has any further information that may be useful in researching the history or origin of these muskets then please contact me.*

## Barnwell Manor, Castle and Gardens David Bailey

In an informative and fascinating presentation, gardening expert and Radio Northampton gardening guru, Nicholas Warliker delighted us all with his many recollections of his time at Barnwell and its royal associations.

Historically the land around Barnwell was held on Knights Service Tenure. There is evidence of the wooden motte and bailey of an early castle, the remains of which in the form of a mound still remain. In 1264, Berenger le Moyne built a substantial round towered rectangular castle of continental design. The structure had layers of large bonding blocks and was built on a hill but with no moat. Built on land owned by the Abbots of Ramsey, probably without permission, the castle was sold to the Abbots of Ramsey for a modest figure in 1276. The le Moynes moved to Sawtry where the family are buried. Barnwell Castle then became the home of the high steward of the Abbots of Ramsey until 1536 when it was confiscated by Henry VIII.

An Elizabethan manor house adjacent to the Castle was built around 1586 and became the main residence. Over time there have been additions to the building with sections revealing both Georgian and Victorian architecture. The Castle remained a family residence into the late 17th Century. Around 1704 its living quarters were destroyed and the interior of the castle was probably used as a farmyard during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The estate was granted to the Montagu family in 1540 who retained it until 1913. Ownership then passed through a number of private hands including Major Colin Cooper who was known for his riotous living. In 1938 Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, bought the house and estate. The Duke's wife Alice was the daughter of John Montagu Douglas Scott, 7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Buccleuch, a descendant of the Montagu family. The Gloucesters lived at Barnwell until 1995 when they moved to an apartment in Kensington Palace as the house at Barnwell was costly to maintain. The house was leased to Berenger Antiques and is closed to the public but the estate is still farmed by the Gloucesters.

The Gardens supported a household of 20 plus their Royal Highnesses and during Major Cooper's time there were 14 gardeners. Nicholas was Head Gardener to Princess Alice for 23 years and recounted numerous stories of his experiences at Barnwell. The gardens encompassed two vineries, two peach houses and also a carnation house (Prince Henry's favourite flower). There were espalier and cordon trees with 45 varieties of apples. A Silver Garden was created for their Highnesses Silver wedding. There was potpourri, crenulated hedges and a haw-haw. Amongst the trees was a Metasequoia (dawn redwood) which had been assumed to be extinct.

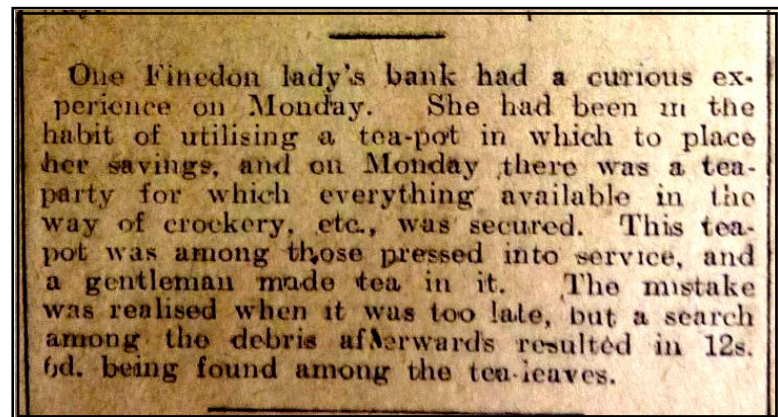
Tom travelled widely in Canada and the United States, but we know he was in Vancouver on 18th July where he married Mabel Laurinda Kennedy. Tom had many different jobs but in 1917 he became a recruitment agent for the Boot and Shoe Workers Union. An article in the Seattle Union Tribune sings his praises. Tom died in on 11th August 1972 and was resident in San Francisco at the time.

The society has copies of a number of documents relating to his life in America should any one wish to see them.

## FROM THE WELLINGBOROUGH NEWS

*“Ow are yer me ol booties? I ope this'll mek yer larf”*

Finedon Notes 20th May 1921



Finedon Notes 1921

**REFRACTORY BULLOCK.**—On Monday a bullock backed into one of the large plate windows of the Conservative Club, and completely smashed the window.

This may have been a bullock being taken for slaughter at John Williams's on Waterlow Bridge.

## FINEDON PEOPLE

### THOMAS (TOM) CORY 4.10.1886 -11.9.1972

When looking through the Infant School archive we came across a photograph of Thomas Cory. Tom may not be known to very many people but he was one of those people who achieved success from humble beginnings. Born 4th October 1886 at Banks Terrace where he lived with his parents three sisters and brother. A second brother died early. Tom's father, also Thomas, worked on the Midland Railway. John Bailey, in 'Look at Finedon' Picture 178, shows his mother and three sisters, Alice married Tom Loveday of Irthingborough Road.



A picture taken in 1895 showing a class at the Junior Boy's School is reputed to include Tom. (Was this picture taken for the 300th Anniversary of the School?) It's my guess that if Tom was included he is the boy in the back row with the watch chain. Tom



emigrated from Liverpool on board the Scotian, landing in Nova Scotia .in April1911.

Reports on meetings 27 April Dr Tricia James

### Infant Mortality and Vaccination for Shoemakers in the Rushden Area 1880-1896

*This talk concentrated on the background to vaccination and its beneficial effects on workers in the shoe industry. It demonstrated effects of other factors including the transition from working at home to working in factories and the beneficial effects of having cowpox. Shortly after this talk the following report was found in the Northampton Mercury, Saturday 6 November 1886 it showed the resistance by many people to allowing vaccination.*

**Wellingborough Petty Sessions—an important vaccination case** Mary Ann Beetson of Finedon, was summoned for committing a breach of the Vaccination Act, at Finedon, on 12th inst.- Mr D P Boyd, secretary of the Rushden Anti Vaccination League, appeared for Mrs Beetson - Mr F N Heygate, surgeon, Wellingborough, said he prosecuted as public vaccinator. (It was the custom for the Finedon people to refuse to allow him to vaccinate from arm to arm)\*. The result was he got called to order by the Government for not carrying out the law. He had vaccinated two children of Mrs Beetsons when she refused to allow him to do any more. There was no limit to the number he should vaccinate from one arm, and in that case there was no other good arm present, and he could have vaccinated all the children without the slightest prejudice to the health and comfort of the child.—Cross examined by Mr Boyd, he took the proceedings on his own authority as public vaccinator. He did not consider it his duty to lay the matter before the Guardians. Mr Boyd said the Act of 1867 empowered the Registrar to prosecute defaulters and the amended Act of 1871 transferred the power to the vaccination officer. The chairman said that the clerk considered there was nothing in the Act to prevent Mr Heygate doing as he did— Cross examination continued, Mr Heygate said he only vaccinated two children from the child's arm and took a small tube of lymph which might vaccinate two others—Here Mr Boyd stated if the case was decided against Mrs Beetson he should put the matter before the Local Government Board— Mr Heygate said he did not desire to press for a fine, but only to carry out vaccination.—PC Thomas deposed to Mr Heygate complaining to the doctor, and to the women refusing to let the doctor have any more lymph, as he had had enough. The Chairman said that they did not wish to deal harshly with the women, but they considered it better, in the interest of justice, that a small fine should be inflicted – the penalty was £1, but this would be mitigated to 2s 6d and costs of 11s 6d.

\* Yet another example of Finedon wanting to be different.

## 2016 EXHIBITIONS

The first exhibition in 2016 will be concerned with the Volta Tower recording its history, construction, and its residents and from its inception up to its collapse in 1951. It is hoped to open the exhibition in late March. Although we have many photographs on the tower we would welcome examples held by members. After making copies these will be returned to the owners

## CYRIL WILSON'S POEMS

In March 2011 we asked if anyone knew of copies of Cyril's poems produced whilst he was serving with the Eighth Army in Italy. Two of Cyril's poems are included in an anthology "Poems from the CMF". A source of this publication has now been found and the society is trying to purchase a copy.

## AGM

Do not forget the Annual General Meeting being held on 23rd November. If you are interested in joining the committee or any other office please speak to me or a member of the committee. After the official business Eleanor Patrick will give a talk on the Buccleuch memorials in Warkton church.

## TRADING PLACES

Rockingham Forest Trust, which manages Stanwick Lakes, is running a four year project to benefit communities from Wellingborough to Thrapston. The project 'Trading Places' focuses on the local trades and skills in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Finedon Local History Society has been asked to form a partnership with 'Trading Places' to develop a programme of activities that connect with their local history.

At the time of Waterloo (1815), Finedon Dried Apples were a great delicacy, produced by several bakers, they were distributed throughout the country.

It is anticipated that around Apple Day, which is 21st October 2016, a series of activities will be arranged to take place. These could include,

Apple juicing

Apple pressing

Apple and baking related products eg. pies, chutneys etc.

Tree planting

Display of varieties of apples

Apple bobbing

Photographic competition

Obviously, as in most local towns and villages, shoemaking was a major industry. Sadly there is no shoemaking industry in Finedon at the present time but a conducted tour of the old factory sites may be arranged.

The details of Finedon's involvement have yet to be agreed. If you have any ideas of activities that could be included, please let us know.